QUEENE ELIZABETHS SPEECH TO HER LAST PARLIAMENT. 1601.

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232 **ELIZABETH,** *Queen of England.* Qveene/ Elizabeths/ Speech/ to her last/ Parliament.

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" The cares and trouble of a Crowne I cannot more fitly resemble then to the Drugges of a learned Physitian, perfumed with some Aromaticall flauour, or to bitter Pils guilded ouer, by which they are made more exceptable or lesse offensiue, which indeed are bitter and vnpleasant to take; and for my owne part, were it not for Conscience sake to discharge the dutie that God hath layd vpon me and to maintain his glorie and keep you in safetie, . . . I should be willing to resigne the place I hold to any other and glad to be freed of the Glory with the Labors. . . . And though you haue had and may haue many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you neuer had nor shall haue any that will loue you better . . ."

MORLEY, OXFORD.

for Robinson
Newcastle on T
April 28
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QVEENE ELIZABETHS SPEECH TO HER LAST PARLIAMENT.

QUEEN

ELIZABETHS

SPEECH

TO HER LAST

PARLIAMENT.

The 30. of November 1601; her Maiestie being set vnder State in the Councell Chamber at Whitehall, the Speaker, accompanied with Privy Councellours, beesides Knights and Burgesses of the lower House to the number of eight-score, presenting themselues at her Maiesties feet, for that so graciously and speedily shee had heard and yeelded to her Subiects desires, and proclaimed the same in their hearing as followeth.

Mr. *Speaker*

WEE perceiue your comming is to present thankes vnto Vs; Know I accept them with no lesse ioy then your loues can haue desire to offer such a Present, and doe more esteeme it then any Treasure or Riches, for those Wee know how to prize, but Loyaltie, Loue, and Thankes, I account them invaluable; and though God hath rayſed Mee high, yet this I account the glorie of my Crowne, that I have reigned with your Loues. This makes that I doe not so much reioyce that God hath made Mee to bee a

Queene, as to bee a Queene ouer so thankefull a People, and to bee the meane vnder God to conserue you in safety, and preserue you from danger, yea to bee the Instrument to deliuer you from dishonour, from shame, and from infamie; to keepe you from out of seruitude, and from slaverie under our Enemies, and cruell tyranny, and vilde oppression intended against Vs: for the better withstanding wherof, Wee take very acceptably your intended helpes, and chiefely in that it manifesteth your loues and largenesse of heart to your Soveraigne. Of My selfe I must say this, I neuer was any greedy scraping grasper, nor a strict fast-holding Prince, nor yet a waster, My heart was neuer set upon any worldly goods, but onely for my Subiects good. What you doe bestow on Me, I will not hoard up, but receiue it to bestow on you againe; yea Mine owne Properties I account yours to bee expended for your good, and your eyes shall see the bestowing of it for your wellfare.

Mr. *Speaker*, I would wish you and the rest to stand vp, for I feare I shall yet trouble you with longer speech.

Mr. *Speaker*, you give me thankes, but I am more to thanke you, and I charge you thanke them of the Lower-House from Me, for had I not received knowledge from you, I might a fallen into the lapse of an Error, onely for want of true information.

Since I was Queene yet did I neuer put my

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pen to any Grant but vpon pretext and semblance made Me, that it was for the good and availe of my Subiects generally, though a private profit to some of my ancient Servants who have deserved well: But that my Grants shall bee made Grievances to my People, and Oppressions, to bee priviledged vnder colour of Our Pattents, Our Princely Dignitie shall not suffer it.

When I heard it, I could give no rest vnto my thoughts vntill I had reformed it, & those Varlets, lewd persons, abusers of my bountie, shall know I wil not suffer it. And Mr. *Speaker*, tell the House from mee, I take it exceeding gratefull, that the knowledge of these things are come vnto mee from them. And though amongst them the principall Members are such as are not touched in private, and therefore need not speake from any feeling of the griefe, yet We haue heard that other Gentlemen also of the House, who stand as free, haue spoken as freely in it; which giues Vs to know that no respects or intrests haue moved them other then the mindes they beare to suffer no diminution of our Honour, and our Subiects loue vnto Vs. The zeale of which affection tending to ease my People, & knit their hearts vnto vs, I embrace with a Princely care farre aboue all earthly Treasures. I esteeme my Peoples loue, more then which I desire not to merit: And God that gave me here to sit, and placed mee over you, knowes that I heuer re-

ſpected my ſelfe, but as your good was conſer-
ued in mee; yet what dangers, what practiſes,
and what perills I haue paſſed, ſome, if not all
of you know: but none of theſe things doe
moue mee, or ever made mee feare, but it is
God that hath delivered me.

And in my governing this Land, I haue ever
ſet the laſt Iudgement day before mine eyes,
and ſo to rule, as I ſhall be Iudged and anſwer
before a higher Iudge, to whoſe Iudgement
Seat I doe appeale in that never thought was
cheriſhed in my heart that tended not to my
Peoples good.

And if my Princely bountie haue beene
abuſed, and my Grants turned to the hurt of
my People contrary to my will and meaning,
or if any in Authoritie vnder mee haue negle-
cted, or converted what I haue committed
vnto them, I hope God will not lay their culps
to my charge.

To be a King, and weare a Crown, is a thing
more glorious to them that ſee it, then it is
pleaſant to them that beare it: for my ſelfe, I
never was ſo much inticed with the glorious
name of a King, or the royall authority of a
Queene, as delighted that God hath made me
His Inſtrument to maintaine His Truth and
Glorie, and to defend this Kingdome from
diſhonour, dammage, tyrannie, and oppreſſi-
on. But ſhould I aſcribe any of theſe things
vnto my ſelfe, or my ſexly weakeneſſe, I were
not worthy to liue, and of all moſt vnworthy

of the mercies I haue receiued at Gods hands but to God onely and wholly all is giuen and ascribed.

The cares and trouble of a Crowne I cannot more fitly resemble then to the Drugges of a learned Physitian, perfumed with some Aromaticall sauour, or to bitter Pils guilded ouer, by which they are made more exceptable or lesse offensiue, which indeed are bitter and vnpleasant to take; and for my owne part, were it not for Conscience sake to discharge the dutie that God hath layd vpon me, and to maintaine his glorie, and keepe you in safetie, in mine owne disposition I should be willing to resigne the place I hold to any other, and glad to be freed of the Glory with the Labors, for it is not my desire to liue nor to reign longer then my life and reigne shall bee for your good. And though you haue had and may haue many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you neuer had nor shall have any that will loue you better.

Thus Mr. *Speaker*, I commend mee to your loyall Loues, and yours to my best care and your further Councels, & I pray you Mr. *Comptroller*. & Mr. *Secretary*, and you of my Counsell, that before these Gentlemen depart into their Countreys you bring them all to kisse my Hand.

FINIS.